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## Memorandum of Conversation

DATE August 24, 1977

SUBJECT: Possible Forged Complaint to Human Rights Commission

PARTICIPANTS: Alain Baron Guillaume, DCM, Belgian Embassy  
Maxwell Chaplin, Chargé d'Affaires, ad interimArgentina

DATE AND PLACE: Office of the Chargé, August 11, 1977

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Baron Guillaume had called the previous day urgently requesting an appointment, which had not been possible due to the visit of Mrs. Patt Derian. He stated that he had called me in an attempt to ask that Mrs. Derian not raise with the GOA the case of one Diego Muñoz Barreto.

The circumstances surrounding this request were as follows:

Guillaume had become friendly with Muñoz's sister, a married woman with two small children. The sister stated that her brother, Diego, was the black sheep of the family, had gone over to the Montoneros, and that she had been the only member of her family who would have anything to do with him. In March 1977, Diego was abducted. Subsequently his sister received telephone calls saying that he was to be killed and finally received a call notifying her that he had been killed and she could go to the authorities for his body if she wished to. Muñoz's sister was totally convinced that Diego had been killed by his Montonero associates, and cited a number of aspects of his disappearance, death, and the telephone calls associated therewith as evidence.

Shortly before the visit of Mrs. Derian, the sister received a letter from some international human rights group (apparently the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights) stating that the organization acknowledged receipt of her report of the disappearance of her brother, and would take appropriate action on it. A copy of the letter requesting action was enclosed. The sister stated that she had never written such a letter and Maxwell Chaplin/Ambassy BUENOS AIRES

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Page Two

~~that her signature~~ on it was forged. She was desperately frightened that her case might be raised with the government, and that attention would be focused on her which could result in action against her by the terrorists. She refused to bring her story to the U.S. Embassy, but went to the Ministry of Interior to make a declaration that she had not filed an appeal with the IACHR and stated that she wished the government to take no action since she feared terrorist action against her two children.

The sister supplied other information to the effect that Diego Muniz disappeared in March 1977 in a car with one Juan Jose Fernandez. Fernandez, she believed, as a Montonero who escaped the country and is now in Spain.

Comment: Reports on file at the Embassy substantiate the account of Muñiz's activities given by his sister. —

MC/pm

GDS

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